

NSC BRIEFING

19 March 1958

25 YEAR
RE-REVIEW

INDONESIA

- I. Indonesian central government forces have control of major centers of east Central Sumatra.
- A. Have occupied all Caltex installations (Pakanbaru, Rumbai, Dumai, Duri and Minas) as well as Stanvac centers of Reagat and Lirik further south.
1. Both companies have been given green light to resume operations.
- B. Siak River ^{now} apparently clear. *Local commander said Caltex tankers may use it. Also,*
- C. Appear to be building up force for drive along road leading to Bukittinggi and Padang.
- II. Indonesian navy vessels (at least one of which hit by counter fire), have continued sporadic bombardment of Padang but no move yet to invade the west coast.
- III. Small dissident forces reportedly have established a main line of resistance on Bukittinggi road ²⁰ miles ^{west} outside of Pakanbaru, and could make a government advance extremely difficult if they take advantage of rough mountain terrain now behind them.

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A. Other units may conduct guerrilla operations in this area.

IV. In Padang, dissident leaders have stepped up condemnation of Sukarno.

A. Hussein, in name of rival government, has officially repudiated any allegiance to Sukarno as president, both Sukarno and Djuanda have been labeled "war criminals", and Sjafruddin said he wanted to hang Sukarno "from the highest place."

1. All this is more cold water on any prospects for a Hatta-Sukarno rapprochement.

B. Dissidents also say they will make strong defense of west coast beaches and Padang, and that they are prepared to fight a prolonged guerrilla war. This remains to be seen, however.

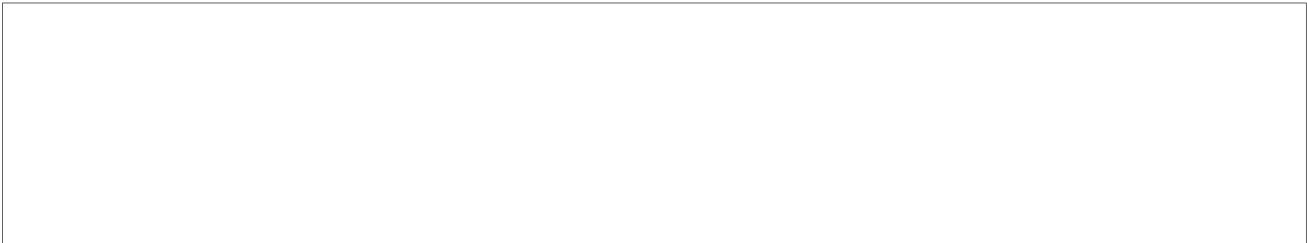
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B. Dissidents may also get shot in arm should Col. Kawilarang (former MA in Washington) arrive in Menado for which he was last reported heading.

1. "Alex" is Menadonese and former territorial commander in East Indonesia who was very popular with local population.

V. In north Sumatra, pre-Djakarta forces seem to be firmly in control of Medan after attempted coup on night of 16 March.

A. Pre-dissident troops, amounting to one battalion and assorted other troops under US-trained Maj. Nainj Golan, took over city, but felt compelled to withdraw early on 17th when expected help from Atjeh and defected units to the south failed to show up.



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C. Rebel claims of new, strong support from Atjeh have not yet been substantiated.

VI. Lt. Col. Barlian in South Sumatra continues to be a key figure. So far he is remaining neutral.


A. Dissidents say they have reason to believe that he is leaning more in their direction.

B. Trend of struggle in Central Sumatra, however, still seems to be dominant factor with Barlian.

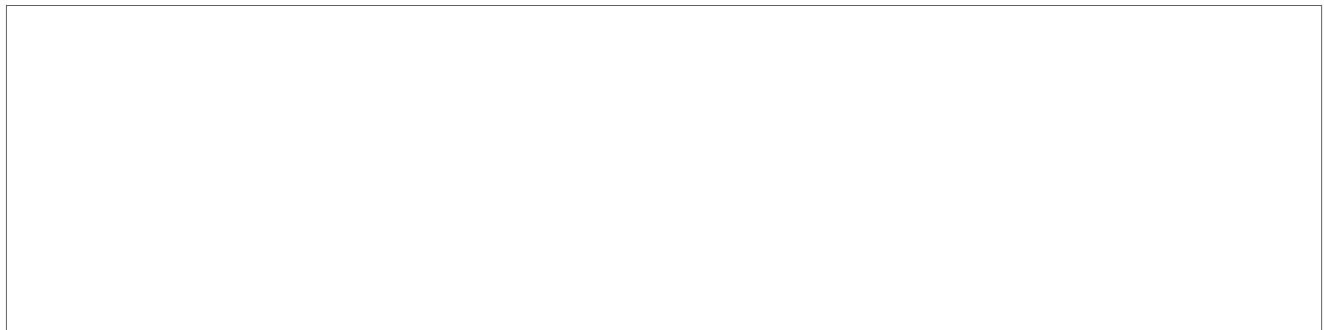
VII. Sukarno returned to Djakarta on 16th after one week tour of East Java and East Indonesia where he sought to build up support for military campaign.

A. Was welcomed back by huge crowd organized by Commie-packed West Irian Liberation Committee.

B. Communists also organized a 50-minute demonstration at Merdeka Palace calling for extirpation of "rebels" and denouncing "SEATO intervention."

VIII. Ten recently purchased Soviet ships  have arrived in Djakarta, and may soon be used in supporting government operations in Sumatra and North Celebes.

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